

**PROPOSAL EVALUATION**  
***IRWM Grant Program – Planning Grant, Round 1, FY 2010-2011***

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<b>Applicant</b>	Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interests (MAGPI)	<b>County</b>	San Joaquin, Merced
<b>Project Title</b>	Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Plan	<b>Grant Request</b>	\$719,010
		<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$1,085,513

**Project Description** The Merced Region is proposing to develop and adopt an IRWM Plan by December 2012 which meets DWR Standards and will also provide intensive study in climate change, flood management, water conservation, groundwater recharge, and salinity and nutrient management. New strategies will be developed to determine and address the needs of disadvantaged communities; 100% of the region meets the definition of disadvantaged community.

**Evaluation Summary**

<b>Scoring Criterion</b>	<b>Score</b>
Work Plan	12
DAC Involvement	10
Schedule	8
Budget	6
Program Preferences	7
Geographic Balance	0
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>43</b>

- **Work Plan** The work plan addresses the criterion, but is not adequately supported by thorough documentation. The work plan identifies region needs with good rationale and an approach to fulfill those needs. The work plan mentions milestones, but no specifics are identified. It is not clear what CEQA/NEPA work would be needed during planning.
- **DAC Involvement** The application describes the process the applicant will use to facilitate and support DACs within the region. The work plan clearly sets forth a plan to contact DACs, notify DACs regarding meetings, and address water management problems that impact DACs. Applicant has identified DACs within the region and indicates that the entire region is considered a DAC. During the planning process for the IRWM's Region Acceptance Process, the planning group notes that they provided steps to ensure inclusion of DAC needs and interests.
- **Schedule** The schedule coincides with the work plan items and budget; however, the schedule lacks the use of milestones, key review points, and stakeholder involvement dates. The schedule for most work items appear to be reasonable, however, it is not clear that the time allotted (two quarters) for resolution of boundary issues is adequate.
- **Budget** The budget addresses the criterion, but is not supported by thorough documentation or sufficient rationale. The proposal does not include a summary budget. The budget generally correlates with the planned tasks and the schedule. It is somewhat confusing which budget items are intended to cover the cost of the tasks identified in the work tasks and the schedule. In addition, there appears to be a computational error and an omission on page 2 of the budget.
- **Program Preference** The proposal convincingly demonstrates that the Plan will make significant strides towards addressing the following Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities: include regional projects/programs, effectively integrate water management programs and projects, climate change response actions, expand environmental stewardship, practice integrated flood management, protect surface water and groundwater quality, and ensure equitable distribution of benefits.
- **Geographic Balance** Not Applicable